

REMARKS

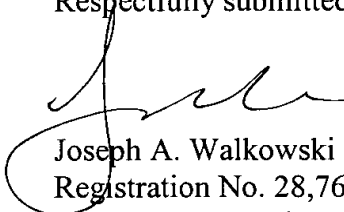
Claims 1 through 45 are currently pending in the application and subject to an Election of Species Restriction Requirement.

Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, to prosecute the species of invention as set forth in claims 7, 9, 24, 26 and 27. Should the Examiner assert that these claims are not directed to a single species, Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, to prosecute the species of invention as set forth in claims 9 and 27.

Applicants consider claims 1, 15 and 41 to be generic, and note that upon allowance of a generic claim, claims depending therefrom and directed to a non-elected species would also be allowable. In the case of claim 1, this would encompass claims 2-6, 8, 10-14 and 43; in the case of claim 15, this would encompass claims 16-23, 25, 28-40 and 44; in the case of claim 41, this would encompass claims 42 and 45.

Applicants respectfully request an action on the merits of claims 1, 7, 9, 15, 24, 26, 27 and 41.

Respectfully submitted,



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